

Date: _____

1 *Country of Birth*

Requirements

Calculator

Optional

Computer

Spreadsheet software program

Background

Australia's population includes people from more than 150 countries. Table 1, taken from the Year Book Australia, 2007, lists the main countries of birth of Australians from 1954 to 2005. It shows in 1000's:

- the number of people born in each country in 1000's
- the total population born overseas
- the Australian-born population
- the total Australian population.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF THE POPULATION ('000)

	1954(a)	1961(a)	1971(a)	1981(a)	1995(b)	2005(b)
United Kingdom(c)	664.2	755.4	1,081.3	1,075.8	1,220.9	1,137.4
New Zealand	43.4	47.0	74.1	160.7	304.2	455.1
Italy	119.9	228.3	288.3	275.0	261.6	224.3
China	10.3	14.5	17.1	25.2	107.2	191.2
Vietnam	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	40.7	157.8	177.7
India	12.0	14.2	28.7	41.0	80.0	138.7
Philippines	0.2	0.4	2.3	14.8	98.3	129.4
Greece	25.9	77.3	159.0	145.8	142.3	127.2
Germany	65.4	109.3	110.0	109.3	120.1	115.2
South Africa	6.0	7.9	12.2	26.5	58.8	113.8
Malaysia	2.3	5.8	14.4	30.5	82.8	100.3
Netherlands	52.0	102.1	98.6	95.1	96.1	87.7
Lebanon	3.9	7.3	23.9	49.4	77.1	85.3
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	1.6	3.5	5.4	15.3	76.6	76.2
Total overseas-born	1,285.8	1,778.3	2,545.9	2,950.9	4,164.1	4,829.5
Total Australian born	7,700.1	8,729.4	10,173.1	11,388.8	13,907.7	15,499.1
Total population(d)	8,986.5	10,508.2	12,719.5	14,516.9	18,071.8	20,328.6

TABLE 1: Source ABS Year Book Australia 2007

(a) Census counts.
are preliminary.

(b) Estimated resident population at 30 June. For 2005, data

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(c) Includes Ireland in 1954, 1961 and 1971.
'At sea'.

(d) Includes country of birth 'Not stated' and

Task One: How has the percentage of migrants changed over time?

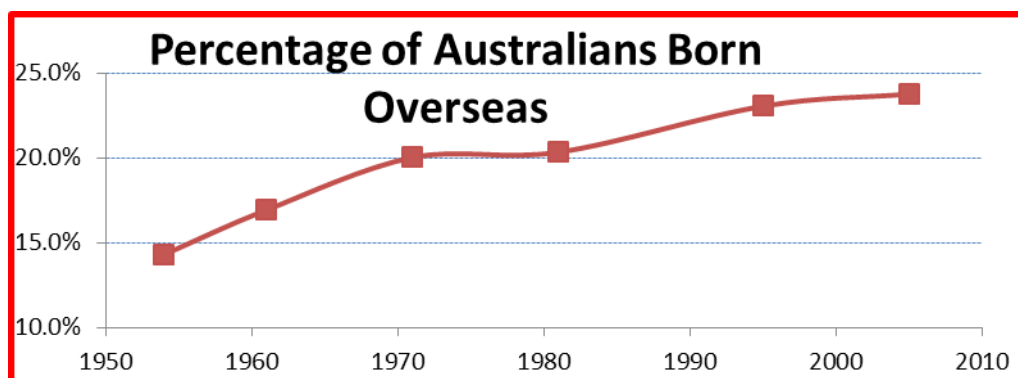
1. For the selected years between 1954 and 2005, calculate the total number of Australians born overseas as a percentage of the total Australian population (e.g. in 1971, the total number of overseas born Australians as a percentage of the total Australian population = $2,545,900 \div 12,719,500 \times 100 = 20.2\%$).
 - a. Show the percentages in a table.
 - b. Show the working out for at least one of your results.

People born overseas as a percentage of the total population

1954	1961	1971	1981	1995	2005
14.3%	16.9%	20.0%	20.3%	23.0%	23.8%

*For 1954
% = $1285.8 \div 8986.5 \times 100$
14.3%*

2. From the table construct a line graph on graph paper or using a spreadsheet package. Make sure that your graph has equal intervals on both axes.



3. Describe the change in the percentage of Australians born overseas from 1955 – 2005.

There has been a steady increase in the percentage of Australians born overseas from 14.3% to 23.8% in the years from 1955 to 2005. However in the decade 1971 to 1981 the increase was much smaller only 0.3%

Task Two: What are the main countries of origin of migrants to Australia?

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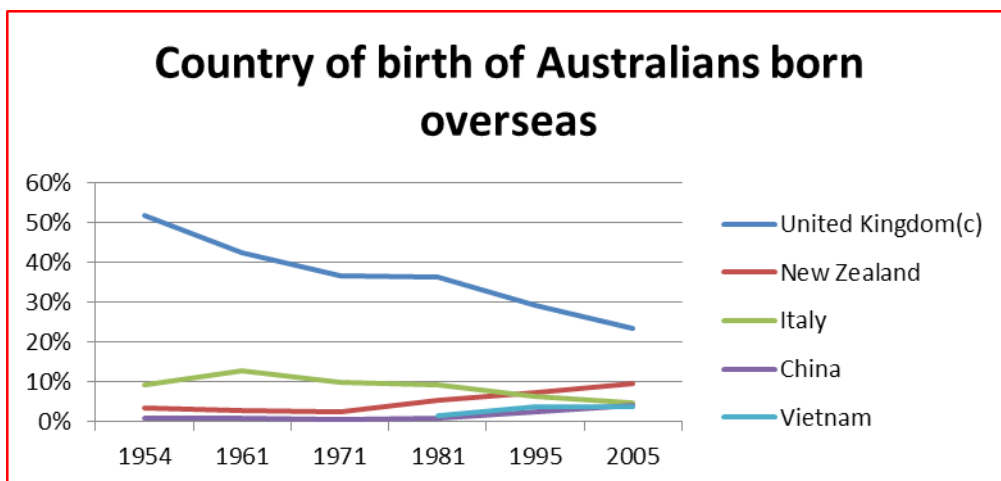
4. For the selected years between 1954 – 2005, calculate the percentage of overseas born Australians, by country, of the total number of overseas born Australians for at least the first five countries listed.
(e.g. for 1961, the number of people born in the UK as a percentage of the total number of people born overseas = $755,400 \div 1,778,300 \times 100 = 42.5\%$).

This can be done efficiently using a spread sheet package and the Fill Down function.

	1954	1961	1971	1981	1995	2005
<i>United Kingdom(c)</i>	51.7%	42.5%	36.6%	36.5%	29.3%	23.6%
<i>New Zealand</i>	3.4%	2.6%	2.5%	5.4%	7.3%	9.4%
<i>Italy</i>	9.3%	12.8%	9.8%	9.3%	6.3%	4.6%
<i>China</i>	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%	2.6%	4.0%
<i>Vietnam</i>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.4%	3.8%	3.7%
<i>India</i>	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%	1.9%	2.9%
<i>Philippines</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	2.4%	2.7%
<i>Greece</i>	2.0%	4.3%	5.4%	4.9%	3.4%	2.6%
<i>Germany</i>	5.1%	6.1%	3.7%	3.7%	2.9%	2.4%
<i>South Africa</i>	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.9%	1.4%	2.4%
<i>Malaysia</i>	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%	2.1%
<i>Netherlands</i>	4.0%	5.7%	3.3%	3.2%	2.3%	1.8%
<i>Lebanon</i>	0.3%	0.4%	0.8%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
<i>Hong Kong (SAR of China)</i>	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	1.8%	1.6%

5. For the first five countries on the list, construct a line graph to show the change over time in birthplace as a percentage of the total number of overseas born Australians. This should be constructed on graph paper or using a spread sheet.
Note: If there is a particular country of interest to you that is not in the top 5, you can negotiate with your teacher to include it in your graph.

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6. For each year listed, from which country did most overseas born Australians originate?

The UK was the most common country of birth for overseas migrants to Australia in each of the years.

7. What changes have there been in the main countries from which Australian residents come?

The percentage of migrants arriving from the UK and Italy has declined over this period whereas the percentage from New Zealand, China and Vietnam has increased. At the beginning of the period under investigation, the number of people born in the UK was more than 5 times higher than that of the second highest country, Italy. At the end of the period, people from the UK were only just over 2 times the next highest place of origin which was then New Zealand. Italy had dropped to third.

8. Explain why the number of people born in the UK has increased while the percentage born in the UK has decreased.

It is important to distinguish between raw figures and percentages. All countries in the table show an increase in the number of people born overseas when 2005 is compared with 1954. However, when viewed as a percentage, UK has declined alongside Italy. Given the significant decrease in the percentage of people born in the UK (from 51.7% to 23.6%) we can say that there would have been a number of other countries where the percentage has increased, or a few where the increase was significant, or both. Because percentage gives information about parts of a whole, an increase in percentages of birth of other countries will result in a reduction in percentage of those born in the UK.

For example if we look at the % change of the country of birth for each country we can see that the % increase from 2005 compared to 1954 has been UK (71%), New Zealand (949%), Italy (87%), China (1756%), Vietnam (337% from 1981), India (1056%), Philippines (64,600%), Greece (391%), Germany (76%), South Africa (1,797%), Malaysia (4,261%), Netherlands (69%), Lebanon (2,087%), Hong Kong (4,663%). Several countries with

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large % increases as part of the whole group of overseas people will result in the % from the UK being smaller as part of that whole.

Extension

9. What do you think the two graphs will look like for the period 2005-2025?
Why do you think they will look like this?

Answers will vary